

On Sunday, the Chicago Tribune reported that a BP refinery in Whiting, Ind., has plans to significantly increase the dumping of ammonia and industrial sludge into Lake Michigan. You can read more about this disturbing development [here](#).

As you may know, Congressman Lipinski and I have introduced legislation that would prevent communities from dumping sewage into the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes are the crown jewel of the Midwest, and we should take every step to make sure that we stop poisoning our water supply. That is why we sent a letter to executives at BP today to tell them to stop their plans to dump these dangerous chemicals into our lake. You can read the letter below.

July 16, 2007

Dr. Tony Hayward
Group Chief Executive
BP p.l.c.
1 St James's Square
London, SW1Y 4PD

Re: BP's Status as Lake Michigan's Newest Polluter

Dear Dr. Hayward:

As Congressmen representing communities along the Great Lakes, we were alarmed to learn that British Petroleum (BP) is planning to become the newest and largest polluter of Lake Michigan.

As part of the new billion dollar expansion of BP's Whiting Refinery, your company is planning to increase its Lake Michigan dumping of ammonia by 54% and sludge by 35%. As you know, ammonia promotes algae blooms that can kill fish and trigger beach closings. Last year, 81% of

Illinois beaches were declared unsafe due to algae and other pollution problems.

Treated Wastewater/Sludge is worse, containing a concentration of heavy metals including mercury. Already, pregnant women in Illinois test 14 times above the background level for mercury in their blood. Since Lake Michigan is the source of our drinking water, your company will increase that danger to the health of our people.

It is ironic that a company that claims to embrace environmental values is going to become the top new polluter on the Great Lakes. A bipartisan coalition of congressmen are also backing a federal ban on dumping in the Great Lakes (H.R. 2907). This legislation would set the stage to implement restrictions for companies such as yours which discharge harmful pollutants into our water.

In sum, we believe that you should revisit your policy of planning to dump 1,584 pounds of ammonia and 4,925 pounds of sludge into Lake Michigan every day. If you are to live up to the millions of dollars you pay to portray BP as environmentally friendly, then you cannot become one of Lake Michigan's newest and largest polluters.

Sincerely,

Mark Kirk
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress